

REMARKS

The application has been amended as needed so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 39-76 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. The Primary Examiner's well-taken formal criticisms of these claims were borne in mind as points to be corrected when preparing this amendment. Specifically, the claims have been amended in such a manner as to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded by applicant as his invention. When amending the claims, the Primary Examiner's helpful suggestions were adopted with thanks. Moreover, the use of vague, indefinite, or otherwise objectionable expressions was avoided. Thus, claims 39-80 are believed to set out and circumscribe a particular substantially sulfur-free process for the production of a chemical pulp from lignocellulosic material, with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity, when read in light of the teachings of the original specification. It is respectfully submitted that a person having ordinary skill in the art would be reasonably apprised of the metes and bounds of claims 39-80. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, has been overcome and should not be applied to claims 39-80.

The Primary Examiner had kindly indicated that the claims would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. By the present amendment, as was pointed out above, it is believed that the same has been effected.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance on the basis of claims 39-80 are accordingly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge the fee of \$36 for four extra dependent claims added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any